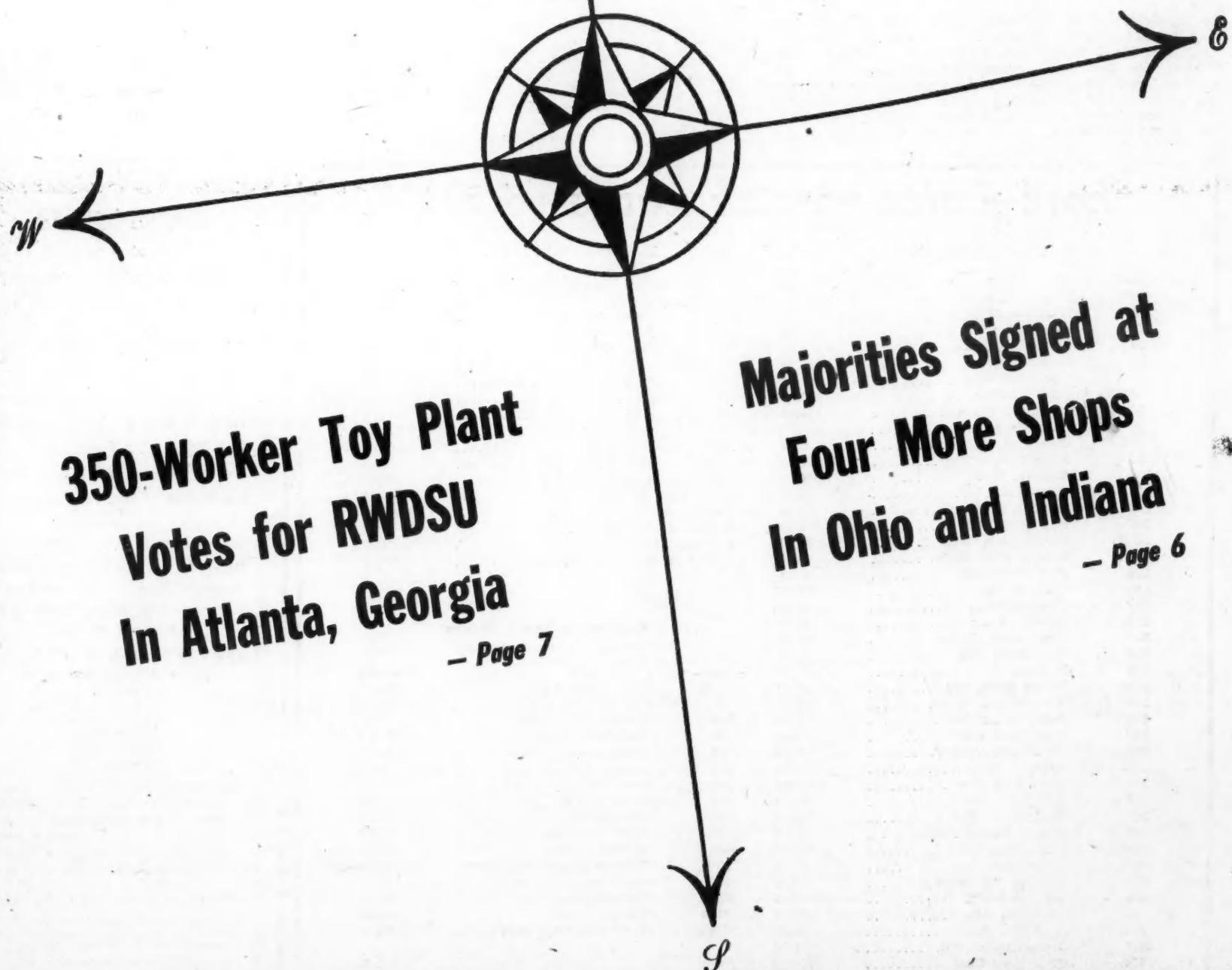


1,000 New Members
In Ontario, Canada
Organized in RWDSU

— Page 8

Hundreds Join in N. Y.
At Cury's 14th St.,
McCutcheons, Lerner

— Page 5



350-Worker Toy Plant
Votes for RWDSU
In Atlanta, Georgia

— Page 7

Majorities Signed at
Four More Shops
In Ohio and Indiana

— Page 6

NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST — RWDSU IS GROWING

Ike's Victory -- And the Days Ahead

An Editorial

A campaign whose final weeks saw the Presidential race relegated to the inside pages of newspapers and the tail end of news broadcasts has come to an end with a landslide vote for Dwight D. Eisenhower. The President's overwhelming triumph is a tribute to the affection and esteem in which he is held by so many millions of Americans, and to their faith in his ability to lead our nation—and the world—for the next four years.

We in the RWDSU, though we wanted Stevenson to win, add our good wishes to those of all other Americans—those who opposed Mr. Eisenhower as well as those who supported him—and our hope that he will serve during these next four years in the best of health and for the best interests of the American people. Certainly he must know now that he can count upon the support of the people, that he has but to lead and the nation will follow.

These are times that cry out for forthright and effective leadership. It is hard to think of a period when the problems of the world were more pressing or urgent than they are right now. Their very urgency, in the view of many observers, added millions of votes to Mr. Eisenhower's total which might otherwise have gone to Adlai Stevenson.

Even to list the hot spots of the world is to point up the magnitude of the problems confronting the President and his Administration. In the Middle East, the open warfare between Israel and Egypt followed eight years of uneasy "peace," marked by armed raids and attacks upon Israel by Egypt and other Arab forces and reprisals by the Israelis. The failure of the United Nations to bring about real peace in the area became tragically clear when Israel moved against Egypt. It was underscored when Britain and France intervened in the Suez Canal Zone, and again when the Soviet Union followed the British and French action by threatening intervention of its own.

The chain of events in the Middle East, like sticks of dynamite set off by a single fuse, was causing explosion after explosion. The U. S., in the words of the N. Y. Times' James Reston, "has lost control of events in an area vital to its security." Our long-standing alliance with Britain and France has been seriously damaged. And over the reports of events in this critical area hangs the threat of an all-out atomic war.

Competing with the Middle East for the world's atten-

tion are Eastern and Central Europe. The eruption in Poland which resulted in a drastic shake-up in that country's ruling Communist Party and the beginning of an important change in relationships between the Soviet Union and its satellites has been overshadowed by events in Hungary. There the overwhelming opposition to rule by both the Kremlin and its Hungarian Communist puppets exploded in a rebellion that actually took Hungary out of the Soviet orbit—until the Red Army forcibly suppressed the Hungarian people's heroic struggle for freedom.

Now, as never before, the true nature of Soviet communism is exposed in all its brutality. The self-styled "champion of the working class" has met workers' legitimate demands with bullets; the "staunch fighter against colonialism" has drowned in blood the Hungarian people's striving for independence.

The American labor movement has expressed its solidarity with the workers of Poland and Hungary in their "heroic fight for national independence and human liberty," in the words of George Meany. But such expressions of support, which have been forthcoming from unionists all over the world, are not enough. They must be backed up by our government and the United Nations. The force of aroused world opinion can yet deter even the Soviet Union from its violent and brutal course.

Similarly, the crisis in the Middle East can be resolved, even now, if our country takes the lead in bringing about a meaningful peace in that area. With the borders of Israel and its neighbors clearly defined and guaranteed by the UN, with a UN police force on the spot to prevent future outbreaks of hostilities, the whole world will breathe easier.

It is a great and challenging task that confronts President Eisenhower as he faces the future. All of us hope he can prove equal to it. During the campaign, it was pointed out many times by those who supported Mr. Stevenson (including the RWDSU) that the Constitutional amendment which limits Mr. Eisenhower to two terms will also limit his political effectiveness within the Republican Party. While we still believe that to be true, that very liability can be turned into an asset by the President—if he wishes. For the fact that his political influence will be lessened frees him from partisan commitments and enables him—if he chooses—to put the good of the country before the good of his party.

Let us all pray that he does so.

in
this
issue:

Labor News Roundup	4
Industry News	4
N. Y. and Northeast	5
The Midwest	6
The South	7
Canada	8
Numbers Game on Wages	9
Movie Reviews	10
Open-Shop Zoo	10
Organizing in the Suburbs	11
Regular Checkups for Health	12
Norway's Retail Union	13
Buying Questions Answered	14
Jane Goodsell Column	14
Comics, Humor	15

"It is but a truism that labor is most productive where its wages are largest. Poorly paid labor is inefficient labor, the world over."

—HENRY GEORGE

COPE HONOR ROLL OF RWDSU LOCALS

Previously Reported

Local	City	Amount
18	New York City	\$ 1,500.00
19	Memphis, Tenn.	120.00
21	Huntington, W. Va.	106.00
26	Suffolk, Va.	160.50
30	Detroit, Mich.	500.00
50	New York City	1,500.00
66	Nashua, N.H.	100.00
75	Houston, Texas	150.00
87	Saginaw, Mich.	403.00
87B	Cleveland, Ohio	10.00
94	Marysville, Ohio	25.00
108	Newark, N.J.	1,000.00
114	Selma, Ala.	26.00
142	Buffalo, N.Y.	27.00
147	New York City	1,250.00
180C	Port Gibson, Miss.	36.00
184L	Kansas City, Kans.	169.00
193	New York City	35.00
194	Chicago, Ill.	226.08
226	Trenton, N.J.	50.00
228	Bristol, Pa.	50.00
256	Cincinnati, Ohio	124.00
260	New York City	169.00
262	Newark, N.J.	200.00
273	South Bend, Ind.	22.00
280	Elm Grove, W. Va.	100.00
282	New Haven, Conn.	300.00
287	New York City	500.00
305	Westchester, N. Y.	750.00
315	Atlanta, Ga.	10.00
338	New York City	2,900.00
357	Anderson, Ind.	52.00
379	Columbus, Ohio	674.00
386	Grand Rapids, Mich.	115.00
390	Cincinnati, Ohio	110.00
425	Bethlehem, Pa.	17.00
432	Kansas City, Missouri	10.00
443	Mason, Mich.	4.00
453	Gadsden, Ala.	55.00
506	Gadsden, Ala.	79.00
512	Indianapolis, Ind.	18.00
574	New York City	250.00
583A	No. Attleboro, Mass.	2.00
585	New York City	150.00
588	Malden, Mass.	25.00

596A	Providence, R.I.	36.00
721	New York City	385.00
835	Fort Wayne, Ind.	107.00
850	Girard, Pa.	450.00
853	New York City	107.00
906	New York City	1,400.00
823	New York City	200.00
970	Ottawa, Ill.	14.10
1085	Berwick, Pa.	15.00
1125	New York City	200.00
1102	New York City	350.00
1199	New York City	1,750.00
1268	New York City	1,000.00
1283	New York City	50.00
1414	Cumberland, Md.	30.00
Chicago Jt. Bd., Ill.		1,035.00
District 65, N.Y.C.		3,250.00
Indiana Jt. Bd., Ind.		10.00
New England Jt. Bd., Ind.		1,006.50
Saskatchewan Jt. Bd., Canada		1,900.00
TOTAL		\$ 27,375.18

Received in Past 2 Weeks Through November 6, 1956

Local	City	Amount
15A	Charleston, S.C.	20.00
26	Suffolk, Va. (add'l)	221.00
143	Buffalo, N.Y. (add'l)	82.00
160	Hamilton, Ohio	84.00
194	Chicago, Ill. (add'l)	83.92
250	Piqua, Ohio	49.00
260	New York City (add'l)	26.50
261	Birmingham, Ala.	150.00
441	Birmingham, Ala.	50.00
574	New York City (add'l)	130.00
580A	Everett, Mass.	47.00
584A	Newton Upper Falls, Mass.	44.00
583	New York City (add'l)	19.00
1034	Philadelphia, Pa.	281.00
1064	Detroit, Mich.	490.00
1102	New York City (add'l)	150.00
		1,927.42
	Previously reported	27,375.18
	GRAND TOTAL TO DATE	\$ 29,302.60

RWDSU RECORD

Published by the

**RETAIL, WHOLESALE & DEPT.
STORE UNION, AFL-CIO**

132 W. 43rd St., New York 36, N.Y.
Telephone: W1 7-9303

Max Greenberg President
Alvin E. Heaps Sec.-Treasurer
Jack Paley Exec. Secretary
Arthur Osman, Alex Bail, Sam Kovenetsky Exec. V.-Presidents

Max Steinbock Editor
Bernard Stephens, Managing Editor
Stanley Glaubach Art Editor
Robert Dobbs, Roland Willoughby
Assistant Editors

Published biweekly, except the first
issue in January and August



Member publication, International Labor Press Assn. The Record receives the news release services of the AFL-CIO News Service, Press Associates-PAI, and the Cooperative Press Assn. of Canada.

Subscription Price \$2.00 per year
Reentered as second class matter June 4, 1954, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. 3 - No. 21—Nov. 11, 1956

401

rwdsu RECORD

Executive Board Reviews Organizing Progress, COPE Drive

RWDSU Health Benefit Plan Established

Thorough discussion of the RWDSU's organizing potential and reports of organizing results and political activity by members of the union in all parts of the U.S. and Canada were highlights of a three-day meeting of the International Executive Board, held Oct. 29-31 at the Concord Hotel in upstate New York. Among other actions, the Board approved details of the RWDSU Health Benefit Plan, as expanded from the International's death benefit plan, to make available to all RWDSU locals such benefits as hospitalization, sickness and disability coverage, surgical and maternity benefits and increased death benefits.

Text of Board Resolution On Health Benefit Plan

Whereas the RWDSU has since its inception in 1937 maintained and operated a Death Benefit Plan for its members, and;

Whereas many affiliated locals of the RWDSU have expressed their desire to extend the said Death Benefit Plan to include such other benefits as hospitalization, sickness and accident, surgical, maternity and dismemberment, and;

Whereas the June 1956 General Council Meeting of the RWDSU voted to extend the said Death Benefit Plan to include the additional benefits set forth above;

Therefore be it resolved that the RWDSU does hereby change the name of its existing "Death Benefit Plan" to read "RWDSU Health Benefit Plan."

Be it further resolved that the RWDSU does hereby extend said existing Death Benefit Plan to provide as follows:

Article I—NAME OF PLAN

This Plan shall be known as the RWDSU Health Benefit Plan.

Article II—ELIGIBILITY

All local unions affiliated with the RWDSU may participate in this Plan in the manner hereinafter provided.

Article III—PARTICIPATION

RWDSU local Unions wishing to participate in this Plan shall do so by applying to the RWDSU on forms furnished by the RWDSU which shall indicate the manner and extent of participation of said Local Union.

Article IV—BENEFITS

The maximum benefits under the RWDSU Health Benefit Plan shall be as follows:

A. Death Benefits up to the sum of \$10,000.

B. Hospital Benefits up to the cost of a semi-private room in any hospital for a period not exceeding 201 days (in any 12 month period) including medications, laboratory fees, X-ray examinations and other hospital services.

C. Sickness and Accident Benefits up to two-thirds of the salary of a person covered by the Plan with a maximum of 26 weeks of payments in any 12 month period.

In no event shall the total accident and sickness benefits for persons covered by this Plan be less than the total benefits provided by the disability laws or such other laws of the State in which said covered person performs his work.

D. Surgical Benefits up to \$250 for any surgical operations as per schedule.

E. Maternity Benefits up to six weeks of weekly sickness benefits and up to \$100 for hospital expenses and up to \$100 for surgery benefits.

F. Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits up to \$10,000 for accidental death and as per schedule for dismemberment.

G. Dependency Benefits—Hospital benefits up to the cost of a semi-private room in any hospital for a period not exceeding 201 days (in any 12 month period) including medications, laboratory fees, X-ray examinations and other hospital services. Surgical benefits up to \$250 for any surgical operations as per schedule. Maternity benefits up to \$100 for hospital expenses and up to \$100 for surgery benefits.

Article V—AMENDMENT OF PLAN

This Plan may be modified at any time by the RWDSU, provided, however, that no amendment shall affect any benefits which have accrued and are payable to any covered individual as herein provided.

And be it further resolved that the said RWDSU Health Benefit Plan shall be administered by a Health Benefit Committee which shall be comprised of the President, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Secretary of the RWDSU and six other members selected by the Executive Board of the RWDSU, all of whom shall serve without compensation. All actions of this Committee shall be regularly reported to the RWDSU Executive Board and shall be subject to approval of the RWDSU Executive Board.

The resolution on the Health Benefit Plan, reprinted in full on this page, set forth maximum benefits to be made available. These could include as much as \$10,000 death benefits, hospitalization up to 201 days, sick benefits, surgical benefits up to \$250, maternity benefits, accidental death and dismemberment benefits, and corresponding benefits for dependents.

Exec. Sec. Jack Paley, whose report included the Health Benefit Plan proposals, pointed out that Locals 923, 377 and 394, all of New York, with a total membership of about 4,000, had already indicated their desire to have their members covered by the Plan. In addition, other locals with a membership of some 6,000 have also expressed great interest in the Plan. Paley said, leading to the belief that at least 10,000 RWDSU members will soon be covered by it for various health and welfare benefits.

'In the Black'

Paley also presented a detailed financial report which showed that the International was continuing to operate "in the black." He also reported that the RWDSU Staff Retirement Plan had been in operation since July. It covers the staff of the International, as well as the staffs of local unions which choose to participate.

Pres. Max Greenberg, who presided at the sessions, reported that the RWDSU had turned in 120% of its quota in the AFL-CIO Dollars for COPE drive. This remarkable showing, probably the finest in the entire labor movement, was made possible by the fine support and cooperation of RWDSU locals, and had added greatly to the recognition accorded to the union in the labor movement, he said.

Organizational reports, led off by Sec-Treas. Alvin E. Heaps, pointed up substantial recent gains in various parts of the union. Heaps referred particularly to the remarkable progress being achieved in the South and Canada. The RWDSU has doubled its size in Atlanta, Ga., has won a number of victories in Florida, and is making headway in the Carolinas, as well as continuing its steady growth in Alabama. In Canada, Heaps noted, the RWDSU has grown by more than 1,000 members in the Province of Ontario during the past four months, with an additional 1,000 in the process of being organized.

Heaps' report was supplemented by Vice-President N. Jerome Kaplan, who described Local 1102's gains on Long Island and in other parts of New York; Regional Dir. Jerry Hughes, reporting on Ohio, Al Evanoff and John Gallacher of Chicago, Martin Koppel of Local 721, New York, Leon Davis of Local 1199, New York and others.

The discussion of further organizing possibilities was kicked off by reports from Exec. Vice-Pres. Sam Kovenetsky and

Vice-Pres. Bill Michelson on their recent tour of department store organizing prospects in the Midwest. Additional reports by Regional Dir. Frank Parker, Vice-Pres. Hank Anderson and others pinpointed organizing prospects in various areas. The views of the Board members were summarized by Pres. Greenberg when he said:

"Now, 2½ years after our merger, we have solidified and unified our ranks and learned to work together as a team. We are ready to tackle the task of organizing on a bigger scale under the leadership of the International union, with the direct participation of our locals. Our efforts will not be haphazard; we will carefully select our targets, concentrate on them and see them through to a successful conclusion."

Regional Directors George Barlow and Gerald Emery outlined for the Board the steps that were being taken in Canada to broaden the RWDSU's membership base. Barlow told of new organizing underway and projected in Ontario and Nova Scotia, while Emery described progress



PRES. MAX GREENBERG

being made in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as well as Alberta where the oil and uranium boom is making an organizing drive by RWDSU feasible.

The Board also heard a report by Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Ball on the outstanding success achieved in New York State on the retail minimum wage. Ball, together with Vice-Pres. Samuel Lowenthal, served on the state board which unanimously recommended a \$1 retail minimum, following the presentation of facts by many RWDSU locals.

Arthur Osman Pays Tribute to Memory of Leroy Harris



ARTHUR OSMAN

Members of the RWDSU Executive Board were deeply moved at their meeting last month when Exec. Vice-Pres. Arthur Osman paid tribute to Vice-Pres. Leroy Harris, who died Sept. 5 at the age of 53 after a heart attack. Osman, who knew Harris well and gave him guidance in the building of Local 26 in Suffolk, Va., described Harris as "a man typical of the rank and file from which he came. Because he was a real son of his people, they united around him and built the local from a demoralized and disorganized group of about 200 miserably paid and exploited workers to a strong, confident group of close to 1,500."

Osman talked of the time about five years ago in Suffolk, when "these people lacked elementary rights of freedom. They couldn't find a meeting hall, and used to gather in empty lots

and once in a while in a Negro church until that was stopped. A worker was sought who could effectively unite this group, and Harris came forward.

"He was no slick orator. He was a simple soul, a typical son of the South who had suffered the same lack of opportunity and degrading conditions of life which are the lot of many Negro workers there. To organize this group was not easy, particularly in Suffolk, Virginia, and the job took its toll of Leroy's health."

Osman noted that Local 26 has decided to conduct a training program for a year, during which aspiring successors for Harris' post may strive to prove themselves capable of doing the job. An election for president will be held at the end of the year's program.



LEROY HARRIS

LABOR NEWS ROUNDUP

Compiled from news releases of AFL-CIO News Service, Press Associates-PAI, and the Canadian Coop. Press Assn.

Meany Asks U.S. Labor Aid Poles, Hungarians

WASHINGTON—American labor's solidarity "with the aroused people behind the Iron Curtain" in Hungary and Poland will be translated into action, AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany promised.

Meany has requested authority to contribute \$25,000 to the AFL-CIO Int'l. workers "now engaged in the decisive fight for free labor and human freedom." He has asked the presidents of all affiliated unions to send "a generous con-

Millard Named To ICFTU

TORONTO, Ont.—RWDSUers were on hand last month, joining 400 Canadian and U.S. union leaders in a send-off dinner and tribute to Canadian Steelworkers' Dir. Charles Millard. Millard, a long-time friend of RWDSU in Canada, has taken on the "biggest organizing job in the world" with his appointment to the office of organization director of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

Millard, who will work out of Brussels, the headquarters city of ICFTU, was promised "all possible help" by the Canadian RWDSUers. Attending the dinner were RWDSU Sec.-Treas. Al Heaps, Eastern Regional Dir. George Barlow, Intl Reps. Jack Piper, George Barron and George Spaxman.

The speakers unanimously expressed pride at the choice of Millard as reflecting credit on the entire Canadian labor movement. All agreed, too, that the best way to show their support of the ICFTU was to increase financial contributions to the world trade union organization.

Millard, on being presented with gifts for himself and his wife, said, "... workers everywhere are absolutely dependent on one another. We need the other fellow just as much as he needs us. Our task is to work with the trade union leadership among the people in these countries."

from the Executive Council to contribute \$25,000 to the AFL-CIO Int'l. workers "now engaged in the decisive fight for free labor and human freedom." He has asked the presidents of all affiliated unions to send "a generous con-

tribution" to him as chairman of the fund to aid the campaign.

Meany advised the affiliates' presidents that the AFL-CIO is "deeply inspired by this historic struggle, the outcome of which will profoundly affect world peace, human freedom and the future of our own country."

He recalled that American labor has been "a consistent and unrelenting opponent of Communist tyranny, aggression and subversion everywhere."

In a letter to Pres. Johann Roehm of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, Meany asked that Hungarian workers be given the sincere wishes of the AFL-CIO for success in their battle for liberty.

RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg said the International "undoubtedly will quickly respond to this appeal, which all of us in the RWDSU support wholeheartedly."

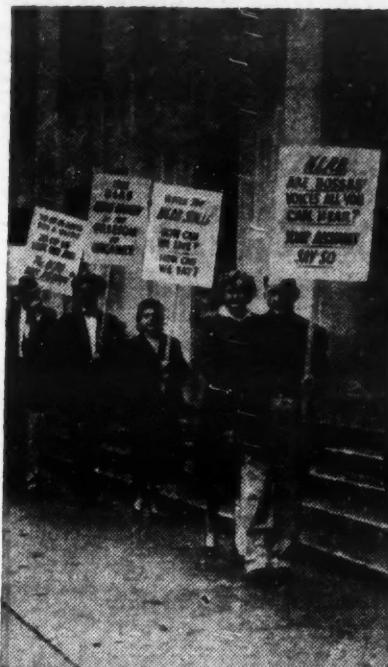
Many locals of the RWDSU were represented at a meeting on Nov. 2, called by the Workers Defense League, to mobilize support for the Hungarian workers. In addition to RWDSU officers, led by Pres. Greenberg, locals participating included District 65, and Locals 1-S, 338, 721, 906 and 1125.

Stockholders Gain

WASHINGTON.—It's been a great year for the coupon clippers, according to the Commerce Dept. Cash dividends paid by corporations during the first nine months of 1956 are one-eighth ahead of the same period a year ago.

The total through September was over \$7.9 billion, compared with nearly \$7.1 billion last year. Non-ferrous metals producers and auto makers led the gains. Dividend payments in September alone amounted to nearly \$1.6 billion, or 7 percent above the same month in 1955.

what's new



7 N.Y. Dailies Settle for \$9

NEW YORK.—A \$9 wage and welfare package offer by the New York Times has averted a newspaper strike in this city. The Newspaper Guild of New York and the seven daily newspapers met well past the Oct. 31st midnight strike deadline in the effort to reach a settlement.

The Times offer—\$5 the first year and \$4 the second year—broke through the deadlock shortly after midnight. The Herald Tribune, the Mirror and the Post settled on the Times pattern soon after. The News, the World-Telegram and the Journal-American then followed suit.

Thomas J. Murphy, executive vice president of the New York Guild, reported the settlement as being based on 9 percent of the average wage of \$100 per week. The top five-year minimum for the Times is \$141 per week.

The Guild also won a cash option, as against the present time off for holiday work. The employees can now ask for cash instead of taking time off when asked to work on a holiday. Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage was also provided in the agreement. The Times estimated the total settlement offer as an \$11.50 package.

The Mirror, in addition to the basic wage-welfare settlement, agreed to four weeks severance pay.

'Work' Laws Hit for 'Runaway'

DETROIT, (PAI)—Nearly 400 members of Local 1079, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, have lost their jobs here and the so-called "right-to-work" laws are blamed.

"It is my personal opinion that the Philco Corporation is transferring its operations from Mt. Clemens, Mich. to Nashville, Tenn. because Tennessee is among those benighted states that have a 'right to work' law," declared IBEW representative F. M. "Mal" Harris.

Harris said that he had no definite proof that the "right to work" law in Tennessee was the basis for the move.

"But company officials tell us that the move is an economic one," he said. "In states where the misnamed work laws are in effect wages are far below the wages paid in such progressive states as Michigan. That's proof

enough for me."

Harris added this comment on runaway plants:

"On my way back from Washington to Detroit I stopped in Richmond, Ind. and was told that International Harvester Co. was closing its plant there and shifting it elsewhere. And Indiana happens to have a Republican Governor."

"If you ask me, the answer to runaway plants is ending these right-to-escalate laws once and for all through concerted political action that will not only include labor, but business people as well. They're a real threat to the Nation's economy."

in our industry

October was the sixth consecutive month showing an increase in sales volume for the nine major department stores in New York City . . . Lane Bryant is opening two new units either late this year or early in 1957, in White Plains, N. Y. and St. Petersburg, Fla. . . S. Klein earned a net profit of \$1,056,734 for its fiscal year ended July 28, 1956. Under the company's expansion program, a 330,000 sq. ft. unit will be completed in Bethpage, Long Island, by the latter part of 1957, "one of the largest suburban department stores in the country" with a parking lot for 6,000 cars . . . Although sales were up for Allied Stores for the three months ended July 31, net earnings showed a decrease of 13.8% . . . As a publicity stunt which got widespread interest, men's clothier Lee Semon in Yakima, Wash. displayed a 3-piece size 56 stout suit in his store window and offered it free to anyone who could wear it. Taxi-driver weighing 312 pounds won with a perfect fit . . . Gimbel Bros. reported an increase of 12.8% in net sales for the fiscal year ended July 31.

Construction is now under way for 2 Korvette discount store units in Greenburgh and White Plains, New York. In Brooklyn, where Korvette will take over former Oppenheim Collins store next March, the company expects annual sales to reach \$25 million . . . Bond Stores net earnings for the fiscal year ended July 31 slightly exceeded those of the previous year. Eleven new stores have been opened within the past three months . . . Namm Loeser's opened its new 40,000 sq. ft. branch in Bay Shore, L. I. aiming at a first year volume of \$2 million . . . Sears, Roebuck is planning a 230,000 sq. ft. 3-story building which will cost \$3½ million in the Ala Moana Shopping Center in Honolulu. Up to date it is the largest store operated by Sears.

A new idea in getting around at work is used by Eaton's of Toronto, Canada service center employees, who travel on vehicles ranging from bicycles to small electric-powered cars over the quarter of a mile of warehouse. A special set of traffic regulations was devised for safe driving and anyone failing to obey "stop" signals is

grounded for further instructions . . . Christmas sales this year will be 7% higher this year than the 1955 season, hitting a new record, the Commerce Dept. predicted . . . Department store credit outstanding dropped in September, but total consumer credit outstanding topped the \$40 billion mark for the first time in history . . . Now young customers in Department Stores can get a drink without waiting for their parents to lift them up to the cooler. A new miniature cooler has been designed exclusively for children and can be attached to the standard water outlet.

Employment in mid-October rose to 66.2 million—about a million more than in any previous October . . . For Christmas gifts and toys this year, Woolworth's customers can make their purchases by mail. The company released a 64-page mail order Christmas catalog, the largest in Woolworth history . . . Japanese sweater imports have gone over the quarter of a million dozen mark in the first nine months of this year . . . The Department of Commerce came out with some words on trading stamps

calling them "an effective sales promotional tool." The trading stamp fever has spread to all states except Utah, Kansas and North Dakota, who have passed measures limiting their use. More than 400 companies are in the business totaling \$600 million a year.

Grand Union opened a new supermarket in Bay Shore, Long Island . . . A&P has gone a step further in non-food items in its New York stores by setting up complete departments where space permits. In order to accomplish this, A & P is cutting down on its slow-moving food items to make room. The current emphasis is said to be on hardware and housewares . . . Shoe manufacturers and retailers expressed optimism over the outlook for the shoe industry for the first six months of next year at the twenty-third National Shoe Fair. Predictions were that shoe sales in '57 would run 4 to 5% ahead of the like period of this year . . . Sales of National Dairy for the nine months ended September exceeded a billion dollars for the first time in its history.

—Compiled by Rosemarie DaSilva

Schedule Hearings On Proposal for \$1 State Minimum

ALBANY, N.Y.—State Industrial Commissioner Isador Lubin announced a series of public hearings on proposed revisions of the minimum wage order for the State's 600,000-worker retail trade industry.

RWDSU Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Ball, who participated as a labor member of the State Retail Trade Minimum Wage Board in recommending a basic \$1 minimum wage for New York retail workers, urged all retail locals of the RWDSU to participate in the hearings, "so that we can nail down this fine victory and guarantee the speedy implementation of the \$1 an hour minimum."

Vice-Pres. Samuel Lowenthal was a second labor member of the 8-man Board which recommended the \$1 minimum.

It is estimated that 17 percent of all retail workers in the State, or more than 100,000, are earning less than \$1 an hour and will therefore receive a wage boost when the hearings are ended, and Commissioner Lubin orders the recommended \$1 minimum into effect.

Hearings, some of which have already been held, were scheduled at Buffalo, Syracuse, Binghamton, Albany and New York, as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m., Hearing Room 1, State Office Building, Buffalo.

Friday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m., Room 317, Onondaga County Court House, Syracuse.

Friday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Federal Court Room, Federal Office Building, Binghamton.

Monday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m., Assembly Chamber, State Capitol, Albany.

Wednesday, Nov. 21, Bar Association Building, 42 West 44th Street, New York.

Non Selling Join at 5th Ave. Drygoods Store

'1102' Grows at McCutcheon, Lerner

NEW YORK CITY—Unionization of James McCutcheon & Co., swank Fifth Avenue dry goods store, was completed last month when the firm's non-selling employees joined their sales co-workers by choosing RWDSU Local 1102 to represent them, it was voted 27 to 2 for the union in an NLRB election, with two employees absent. With this development and growth in the Lerner chain, '1102' has added some 450 members to its ranks in recent weeks.

In negotiations that followed the McCutcheon election, the non-selling employees won contract terms similar to those that have covered the sales employees since last June. These include a \$1.50 general increase, retroactive to Sept. 17; a 37½-hour, 5-day week, with time and one-half for overtime after 7½ hours work in one day; pensions of \$50 per month; union shop, dues checkoff; vacations of one to four weeks; Blue Cross hospitalization, Blue Shield medical-surgical care for employees and depen-

Average \$5 Raises, Hours Cut In Union News Strike Victory

NEW YORK CITY—A one-week strike of 260 subway newsstand workers ended Oct. 29 when the Union News Co. employees returned to work with a substantial victory in their pockets. They netted average wage increases of \$5 a week; a basic 40-hour, 5-day week, instead of the previous work week of 45 hours; time and one-half for overtime after 40 hours, instead of 48; health and welfare coverage under the District 65 Security Plan; and improvement in the vacation clause of the new one-year contract, it was reported by '65' Organizer Max Klarer.

The contract gains looked even more impressive when compared with the company's pre-strike offer of a \$2 wage increase for two years with no reduction in hours. This offer, termed "insulting" by the Union News workers, was the most

that management would agree to prior to the walkout which began on Sunday, Oct. 21. The contract had expired Sept. 21.

The settlement was reached Oct. 26 in negotiations held at the State Board of Mediation. Leading the union negotiators were '65' Vice-Pres. Al Bernknopf and Klarer, aided by Organization Dir. Bill Michelson. The Union News workers met the following morning, approved the

settlement, and returned to work Monday, Oct. 29.

During the course of the strike, which closed down 145 subway newsstands, the workers picketed the large transportation centers like Grand Central, Times Square and Penn Station, as well as 41 other enterprises operated by Union News Co. in the city, including the swank Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center and other large restaurants.

Aid for Strikers

Aid for the strike came from many sources. RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg kept in daily touch with the progress of the strike, and helped rally support for District 65. Local 906, of the RWDSU, which represents Union News workers employed at railroad and airline terminals, cooperated with the subway newsstand workers, under the leadership of Pres. Joseph McCarthy. Cooperation was also extended by the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union, the Transport Workers Union and locals of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union.

The efforts of Benjamin Wolff of the State Mediation Board and Morris Tarshis of the N.Y.C. Labor Dept. were praised by '65' leaders as contributing greatly to the settlement.

Record \$34,000 Raised At Macy for N. Y. Fund

NEW YORK CITY—In their fourth annual labor-management campaign for the Greater New York Fund, members of Local 1-S and Macy's department store executives raised a record-breaking total of almost \$34,000. In a separate campaign for the Westchester Community Chest, 1-Sers and executives in the company White Plains store contributed an additional \$1,000.

Local 1-S and Macy's were both awarded a Greater New York Fund "E" for their 1955 drive, which netted \$29,000.

"The secret of this year's success," said '1-S' Pres. Sam Kovenetsky, "was the all-out effort to reach those people who had never before made a pledge. Our campaign brought home to everyone in Macy's the fact that each of us has a stake in the well-being of his neighbor."

To underscore the emphasis in participation in the campaign, red "E" pennants were awarded to departments as they hit 80% of their goals. Blue "E" pennants went to those departments in which all the people made a pledge.

Almost everywhere in the huge Herald Square store, or in the Jamaica, Parkchester or Flatbush branches, the pennants were being proudly displayed.

"The magnificent response of our members," said Pres. Kovenetsky, "again demonstrates the understanding and generosity with which they enrich their communities. They have reflected great credit on themselves, on the RWDSU and on the labor movement as a whole."

'65' Organizes Cury's 14th St.

NEW YORK CITY—A contract with Cury's 14th Street by the end of last week was the goal of its 250 employees who joined District 65 in a swift campaign during the past six weeks. Though disagreements between union and management still exist on major points, it is Organizer Morris Doswell's view that Cury's is about to become the first store brought under contract in District 65's department store organizing drive.

Negotiations for an agreement began at a meeting on Nov. 1 between the Cury's management and a committee of 13 employees led by Vice-Pres. Milton Reverby and Doswell. Major proposals of the workers were for a general increase of \$8 a week, 7 holidays, vacations up to 3 weeks, Security Plan coverage, minimums and progressions.

The company offered no increase at that time but agreed to 6 holidays, the proposed vacation schedule and Security Plan coverage. Rejecting this offer at a meeting last Wednesday, the employees negotiating committee issued notice to Cury's that they "must have a contract settlement" by the end of the week.



SUCCESS FOR SUCCESSOR is wished new Local 501 Pres. Henry Santorella by former Pres. Helen Collins in Keeseville, N.Y. as she turns over chairwoman's gavel. Meeting last month saw kick-off of '501' plans to work with other unions in Adirondack Mountain area with guest representatives of two other locals speaking.

Campbell's Soup Wage Talks on; Standard, Libby, Rival Beefs Won

CHICAGO, Ill.—The contract between Local 194 and the big Campbell's Soup Company here has been reopened for talks on wages, which began on Nov. 1, Pres. John Gallacher reported. Substantial wage increases are sought by the 3,000 Campbell workers, a demand raised against the background of settlements in other industries in this area ranging from 10 to 15 cents an hour.

The company's response to the workers' demands has been to claim that high take-home pay prevails throughout the plant. Answering this, union representatives agree that workers earning premium pay had been enjoying fairly good incomes, but they insisted that the workers need earnings they can count on, which calls for substantial boosts in the base rates. The union points out that premium earnings are not steady earnings.

The union negotiators are headed by Gallacher and Campbell Division Dir. Henry Gistover, with Willie Williams, Lenrow Austin, Delmar Hart, Angelo Lamprinos and Stanley Pawlak.

Meanwhile, Gallacher reported the settlement of important grievances at the Standard Brands, Libby, McNeill & Libby and Rival dog food plants.

"Vacations Are a Right . . ."

At Standard Brands an arbitrator's award upheld the union's contention that "vacations are a right earned by past service." While only about 15 members were directly concerned, it was pointed out that all 220 Standard Brands members benefit from the settlement. The grievance was filed two months ago when about 15 members were denied vacation pay on the ground that they had been laid off, had quit or been discharged this year, and that because they had earned the vacation time last year they were not eligible to collect.

The union insisted the workers were eligible for vacation pay regardless of any difference between the year they worked and the year they left the job. Shop leaders Otto Sutterlin and Irene Brubaker were aided by Gallacher and Sec. Treas. Veronica Kryzan in handling the union case.

At the Libby plant about 40 employees won back pay of 5 cents an hour effective last April, reaching a settlement on the grievance only when the union insisted that the case go to arbitration. The issue concerned the company's failure to pay the extra 5 cents an hour on the claim that the contract called for

workers to have a year's seniority as well as certain other qualifications to be eligible to participate in the wage increase won last April.

The settlement provided not only the increase and back pay for the workers concerned, but also a written agreement spelling out the contract provision and leaving no doubt as to the eligibility of workers to participate in wage increases won.

A quick agreement was reached with

the Rival dog food management on cutting by as much as possible the number of contingent, or day workers, needed for temporary production increases. The day workers, who work on the same jobs as seniority people, and sometimes even replace them, are paid less money, thus undermining the job security of the regular employees. The company agreed to carry more regular relief workers who could be available to help in whatever department has a production emergency.



LEADERS MEET in Cincinnati to discuss retail organizing in that city. Standing are Regional Director Gerald Hughes, Executive Vice-Pres. Sam Kovenetsky and Vice-Pres. Bill Michelson. The latter two were on tour of Midwest to survey department store organizing possibilities. They met with local leaders (seated) John Sink, president of U.S. Playing Card Local 256 and Pres. Fred Sommerfeld of Local 390.

10 Stories Up, a New Shop for '379'

Organizing on a Window Ledge in Ohio

COLUMBUS, O.—It was about 10 stories up, on the window ledges of two adjoining office buildings in this city, that one window cleaner said to the other window cleaner, as they waved back and forth in the rather stiff breeze at that height, "Say, buddy, you got a union? If not, why don't you join up in my outfit? That's Local 379 of the RWDSU."

Said the other window cleaner, "Buddy, I hear you talking, and I think you got something there. Let's meet downstairs and talk it over."

Whether it happened exactly this way or not, the fact is a member of Local 379 in a window cleaning company got to talking union with an unorganized colleague recently, and soon thereafter the Buckeye Window Cleaning Co. was organized in Local 379. The employer has granted recognition of the union as the workers' choice after being approached by Int'l Reps. Eugene Ingles and Ed Rosenhahn.

Negotiations for a first contract will begin soon, and while job security and more money are big issues with the workers, a more important form of security is the one they're most interested in. That's personal security, which they will seek to insure by insisting on strict safety rules and top notch equipment.

It's a cinch the contract these workers will negotiate for themselves is going to be a strong one. For its provisions for safety and the finest equipment literally

support them as they cling by their toes to window ledges, be they three stories up or 30 stories up on the Lincoln-Livique Tower.

Thug Gets \$3,300 at '194'

CHICAGO, Ill.—A hooded man waving a Luger pistol held up the Local 194 Credit Union Friday, Oct. 26, and, locking five Credit Union officers in a back room, got away with \$2,800 in members' deposits plus \$523 he took from the officers. '194' Pres. John Gallacher announced the posting of a \$500 reward for the arrest and conviction of the thief. The Credit Union funds are completely insured, Gallacher said.

Present when the robber walked in were Exec. Vice-Pres. George White, Sec.-Treas. Veronica Kryzan, Ernest Fox, Angelo Lamprinos, and Josephine Chlupsa. They were counting the day's deposits and finishing up the day's work in the locked '194' headquarters building at 3504 South Western Ave. when the robber walked into the second floor office. Police said the man probably had hidden in the building before it was locked for the day.

Majority Sign Up At Creamery In Covington, Ohio

COVINGTON, O.—The workers at Westerville Creamery are organizing into the RWDSU, Int'l Rep. Ed Rosenhahn reported. Well over half the 60 presently working have already joined, and more are signing up each day, he said.

The drive began with a contact in the shop made by Pres. Chuck Culver of RWDSU Local 250, union of the Piqua Products Co. employees in nearby Piqua, Ohio.

The union has filed a petition for election with the National Labor Relations Board, and Rosenhahn said prospects for winning are good.

Wages in the Westerville plant are very low in comparison to dairies organized in RWDSU, and working conditions are poor, Rosenhahn said, thus providing the workers with a strong stake in organizing.

90 Organized at Indianapolis Firm

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—An organizing campaign is under way at the Baxter Equipment Co., with a substantial majority of the 90 employees already signed, Int'l Rep. Joseph Romer reported.

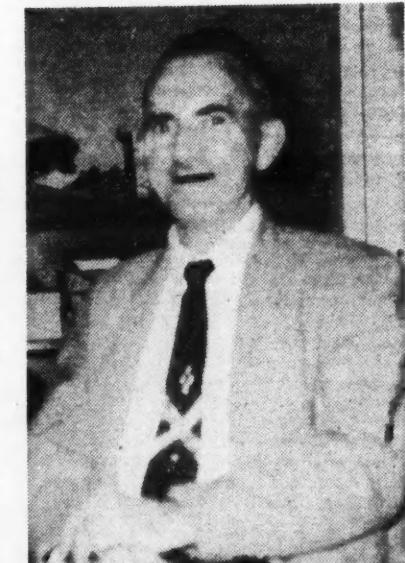
A petition for election has been put before the National Labor Relations Board, and the workers meanwhile meet frequently to work out plans to complete organization and discuss proposals they will make for their first RWDSU contract.

Elsewhere in this city, Romer reported settlement of a contract reopener with the Continental Bakery, whose employees are members of Local 353. General wage boosts of 11 cents an hour were accompanied by additional increases of 5 cents now and another 5 cents on Dec. 28 for mechanics.

Beverage Firm Organized in Portsmouth Ohio

PORTSMOUTH, O.—All the employees of the Barge Soft Drink Co. have joined Local 612 RWDSU, Regional Dir. Gerald Hughes reported. The employer of the beverage distributing firm has consented to a labor board election, and Hughes expects it to be held before Nov. 15.

The company employs 15 workers, including plant employees and route men. They were approached about joining the union by some of their fellow beverage distributors in this town who are members of '612'. Leading in the organization of the workers is Int'l Rep. Edgar L. Johnson.



FIFTEEN YEARS a member of RWDSU, Russell Baker of Indianapolis is also celebrating a total of 30 years in the labor movement. He has been financial secretary of Continental Bakery Employees Local 353 for past 8 years, and is also an executive member of the RWDSU's Indiana Joint Board.

Georgia Toy Plant of 350 Votes RWDSU

ATLANTA, Ga.—In spite of strenuous stalling efforts by the employer, with substantial help from the local office of the National Labor Relations Board, the workers at the Rushton Toy Co. met the test by voting 135 to 126 for the RWDSU in an NLRB election held on Oct. 26. Negotiations for a first contract will begin soon, Regional Dir. Frank Parker said, after certification of the election results arrives from the labor board. In season the company employs up to 350 workers.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE at Rushton Toy Co. in Atlanta, Ga., which sparked election victory Oct. 26. L. to r., seated, Gertrude Seals, Mary Emery, Margaret Redwine, Gladys McDonald. Standing, Ollie Mae Jackson, Cecil Ledford, Bertha Johnson.

1200 Overcome Obstacles, Win General Boost

Raises for All at Amer. Tobacco

CHARLESTON, S. C.—The battle of the members of Local 15A against the powerful American Tobacco Company's attempt to dictate a settlement has been won, Int'l Rep. Irving Lebold reported. After a series of protest actions the 1,200 workers won wage increases for everyone in the plant in the face of company refusal during weeks of negotiations to grant general increases.

The Local 15A victory came in the face of several obstacles. Two other unions in the company's Roi Tan cigar plants elsewhere settled this year without general wage increases. The biggest local in the state of South Carolina went back to work after a four-month strike with no gains.

In spite of this discouraging atmosphere the Local 15A members carried on a vigorous campaign of protest meetings, including wearing big buttons with the slogan "I Want A Raise," and petitions to management.

Wage Boost Retroactive

The agreement, ratified by the workers at sectional plant meetings, provides general wage boosts of 3 cents an hour, with an additional 2 cents for about 150 skilled craftsmen. The increase will amount to 4 cents hourly for about 800 piece workers. The wage boosts are retroactive to last month, when the contract expired. The latter stages of the talks were held under a one-month contract extension.

The vacation clause was improved to provide 3 weeks after 15 instead of 20 years on the job, which will affect more than 100 people for the next vacation period. Machine operators will now be entitled to return to their machines after a 6-week leave of absence instead of the former 3-week limit.

Increased costs of hospitalization insurance will be borne by the company where individual workers are covered. Where a member has family coverage he will have to pay the increased premium himself. This will amount to about 70 cents a month.

Insisted on Raise for All

Lebold pointed out that, not only did the union defeat the company's attempt to limit a wage increase to just a few hundred of the workers, but that the company move to leave the maintenance department employees without an increase also failed as a result of the negotiating



HAPPY OVER GRIEVANCE WIN at American Tobacco in Charleston, S.C., are Steward Mildred Mayes and Myrtle Risher. Local 15A secured proper job as machine operator for Mrs. Risher.

committee's insistence on wage increases for everyone, without exception.

Meanwhile, the local president, Elisabeth Porter, the secretary-treasurer, Lori Hriott and several stewards resigned their positions after being overruled by the local executive board in approving the contract settlement. Nan Carter, first vice-president, is now the acting president.

The issue in dispute concerned advantages in sick leave and vacation pay traditionally granted by the company to plant mechanics. These advantages were questioned by the former president, and the executive board voted to drop the question on the ground that raising it with the company on the eve of the contract's expiration would put the entire settlement in danger. The resignations came on the heels of this action.

The big issue for the Rushton workers is job security and drastic changes in working conditions, which find them carrying high work loads without adequate compensation, and at the same time being pushed around by an arrogant management.

At meetings held during the past few months, worker after worker rose to tell about the indignities they suffer on the job, and the insecurity of not knowing whether they would have a job when they came in the next day.

Parker said, "As far as the workers are concerned, there are going to be some changes made in these conditions."

Another beef the workers intend to take up with the management is the company's termination of a large group of union members just before the election. Already in the works is a charge of unfair labor practice against management for its discharge of these workers.

Parker pointed out that previous practice had been to lay off temporarily at the season's end. "It's plain," he said, "that this year the company had special reasons to try to get rid of a number of employees permanently. They wanted to

cut the union as much as possible before the election."

Without exception, these laid off workers were union members. Parker said the workers are determined to fight for the recall of those who were "terminated" as one of the first items on their negotiations agenda. It is expected the company will try to hire new people in their places.

Gals of '436' Hit Print Again

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Once again the RWDSUers at W. T. Grant have made news. For the second time in as many months the 50 members of Local 436 have hit the public prints as a result of 100 percent efforts in good citizenship. This time Local 436 was the first union in this city to go over the top in the United Appeal fund drive.

Local 436's work got rave notices in the local press, with the Birmingham Post-Herald quoting Pres. Vivian Smith and Myrtle Bailey, who, as a volunteer United Appeal worker, led the campaign. The fund aids a long list of agencies which give community service.

All members of the shop pledged to give one hour's pay per month. The first publicity item about Local 436 concerned the fact that 100 percent of the store's employees had registered to vote.

120 at White Milk Join RWDSU in N.C.

WILMINGTON, N. C.—Almost all of the 120 plant employees and route salesmen of the White Ice Cream and Milk Co. have joined RWDSU, and a petition for election has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board, Int'l Rep. Irving Lebold reported.

The firm is a subsidiary of National Dairies, biggest dairy chain in the world. And its products bear the well known Sealtest label. A hearing on the union's petition was scheduled to be held last week.

The organizing campaign, which began about 3 months ago as a result of contacts by the local Textile Workers Union and AFL-CIO Regional Dir. Carey Haigler, is being led by Lebold. Further aid from the regional AFL-CIO has come in the form of Organizer Ray Schnell, assigned to the campaign by the regional office.

Ralston-Purina in Macon, Ga. Organized Solidly in RWDSU

MACON, Ga.—Almost all of the 66 employees of the Ralston-Purina feed mill here have joined the RWDSU, Regional Dir. Frank Parker reported. A hearing on the union's petition for an NLRB election is due to be held Nov. 13.

Regular meetings of the employees, all of them with substantial turnouts, lend confidence that a victory is in store when the workers vote for their choice of union.

Int'l Rep. Bill Connell has been leading the organizing campaign, with help from AFL-CIO Org. Waldo Rasnake, who was assigned to the drive by the regional office of the national organization.

The workers came to the RWDSU as

the result of an organizing drive by the Textile Workers Union in the area. The Ralston-Purina workers became interested in organizing themselves as a result, and the Textile Union informed RWDSU leaders.

This will be the third Ralston-Purina plant to organize into RWDSU. Others are located in Nashville, Tenn. and Charlotte, N.C.

RWDSU Locals Growing Fast in Retail, Wholesale Fields

1,000 New Members Organized in Ontario

TORONTO, Ont.—In just four months, Regional Dir. George Barlow reported, well over 1,000 new members have been organized in the six Ontario locals of the RWDSU. The four-month period, taking in July, August, September and October, has seen hard work by dozens of rank and filers, mainly members of the various local executive boards, in making the contacts which have led to complete organization, Barlow said.

He emphasized that this degree of progress would be physically impossible without rank and file help, considering the vast area over which the organizing



GEORGE BARLOW

activities have taken place.

Now in the process of organization are more than 1,000 additional workers, predominantly retail groups in such chains as National Grocers, Dominion Stores, Loblaw's Grocery Stores and Thrift Food Stores. In addition, a number of dairies, bakeries and potato chip plants are under organization.

Among those already organized, including shops certified and those awaiting certification, are Dominion Stores in 12 cities; Industrial Foods, a plant cafeteria; Johnson's Warehouse, and Scales & Roberts, a tobacco wholesaler. These are all in Local 414.

Bakery Local 461 has organized five more units of Canada Bread, Weston's Bakery in Stratford and Brantford, McHutchion's in Brantford, another Mammy's Bread unit in Galt, and Manning's Biscuits in Toronto.

Local 440, the dairy group, has brought in

such shops as Westside Dairy, Royal Dairy, and Silverwood's office employees. The local has applications in for Sunshine Dairy and Campbell's in Peterboro, and the Co-op Dairy in Port Colborne.

The United Steelworkers organized a Dominion store in Noranda, Quebec, and Local 930 of the RWDSU was forged there when the Steel union turned the shop over to the RWDSU. Another new local, Local 915, was formed in Northern Ontario when the workers of three Dominion Stores in three cities joined up. The cities are Cochrane, Kirkland Lake and Timmins.

In Windsor, Department Store Employees Local 1002, formerly a local industrial union, joined the RWDSU and the local has since grown to include the Honey Dew Restaurant, the two Vexler Department Stores, and the four Agnew-Surpass Shoe Stores. The latter two firms are up for certification.

Winnipeg Dairy Pay Hikes Bring Top Industry Rates

WINNIPEG, Man.—More than 300 members of Local 755 in three dairies here have won a new contract providing wage increases of \$4 a week in the plants, \$2 a week in salesmen's base pay, and a number of improvements in working conditions, Business Agent Gordon Ritchie reported. The increases bring the rates to the highest mark in the province's dairy industry.

The three dairies, with which a joint agreement was negotiated, are Modern

Dairies, Standard Dairies, and Medo-land Dairy. The contract is effective Oct. 1.

The \$4 boost brings plant minimums to \$56.50 a week, and the salesmen's increase brings their base pay to \$58. The salesmen, of course, also earn commissions.

Other improvements were: more frequent supply of work clothing by the employers; route splits, new routes and job vacancies to be posted on bulletin boards for 3 days; vacation changes providing the posting of schedules, and permitting all employees on the payroll before Sept. 30 to receive 2-week paid vacations in the next vacation period.

Members of the union negotiating committee besides Ritchie, were R. Matheson, R. Oxenforth, W. Ironside, J. Stewart, G. Yeats, H. Letourneau, and S. Nys. Company spokesmen were C. W. and J. G. Speirs.

In Estevan, Sask. Joint Board Rep. Brad Fowler reported the settlement of the Sinclair contract there, with wage boosts of \$33.75 a month, retroactive to June 1, 1956, plus medical care whose costs are shared equally by employer and employee.

\$3 Raises Won at Sask. Bakeries

SASKATOON, Sask.—Contract settlements were won last month in the McGavin Bakeries and the Canadian Bakeries, affecting some 250 members in six plants and two distribution depots. In addition to substantial wage increases the workers in this city and Prince Albert, North Battleford, Swift Current and Yorkton.

Across-the-board wage boosts of \$3 a week, retroactive to Sept. 9, brought the minimum for men in the plants up to \$58.50 a week, ranging to a top rate of \$71.50. Women's rates now go from a minimum of \$52 to a high of \$64.50 a week.

Wholesale salesmen won \$3 increases, bringing their average wage to nearly \$80 a week including commissions, and retail salesmen, with an increase of \$4 a week, upped their average earnings to more than \$67. Office rates go from a new minimum of \$53 to a top of \$57 a week.

Plant employees work a 5-day 40-hour week, while the office works 5 days, 38 hours.

Vacation eligibility was improved to

provide 1 week after 6 months, 2 weeks after a year and 3 weeks after 12 instead of the former 15 years' service.

A proposal for a pension plan failed of accomplishment, and while the members overwhelmingly approved the agreement without the pension plan, they nevertheless expressed determination to continue to press for such a plan.

Members of the negotiating committee, representing 5 locals, included Perry Vogan, Fraser Armstrong, Lorne Romph, Fred Hopkins, George Fischer and Jack Frost of Local 537; Mike Fedoruk and Ron Lucas of '496'; Archie Carnahan of Local 544 and Doug Hogaboam of Local 455. They were assisted by Int'l Rep. Walter Smishek.

Mourn Death of Mary Kortes

SARNIA, Ont.—Local 448 members joined the family of Mary Kortes in mourning her death in a head-on auto crash Saturday, Oct. 27. Mary was killed instantly and a man in the other car in the collision was seriously injured in the accident, which happened while she was driving to work. She was 36 years old.

Mary Kortes was shop steward at the Guildwood Inn, a new establishment in Point Edward, recently organized into the RWDSU. Mary, one of the leaders of the organizing campaign, was also on the negotiating committee and contributed to winning what was described as 'the finest contract in Canada's hotel and restaurant industry.' The contract was concluded last August.

Among the contract's benefits is double indemnity life insurance in case of accidental death, and Mary's beneficiaries will thus receive \$2,000. She leaves her husband, Paul, two daughters, June and Susan, and her mother, Mrs. Ann Shymko.



MARY KORTES

Strikes Loom in Windsor, Ont. At Dept. Store, Restaurants

WINDSOR, Ont.—The employees of a department store and two restaurants are determined to strike if necessary unless conciliation hearings now under way result in substantial wage increases and a union shop in the department store, Int'l Rep. Walter Kensit reported.

About 260 workers are involved in the three shops—the Smith department store, the Honey Dew Restaurant and the Tunnel Coffee Shop. At Smith's alone, 200

members of Local 1002 are involved. The aim of the restaurant workers is to raise rates of 60 and 65 cents an hour to \$1 an hour minimum wage.

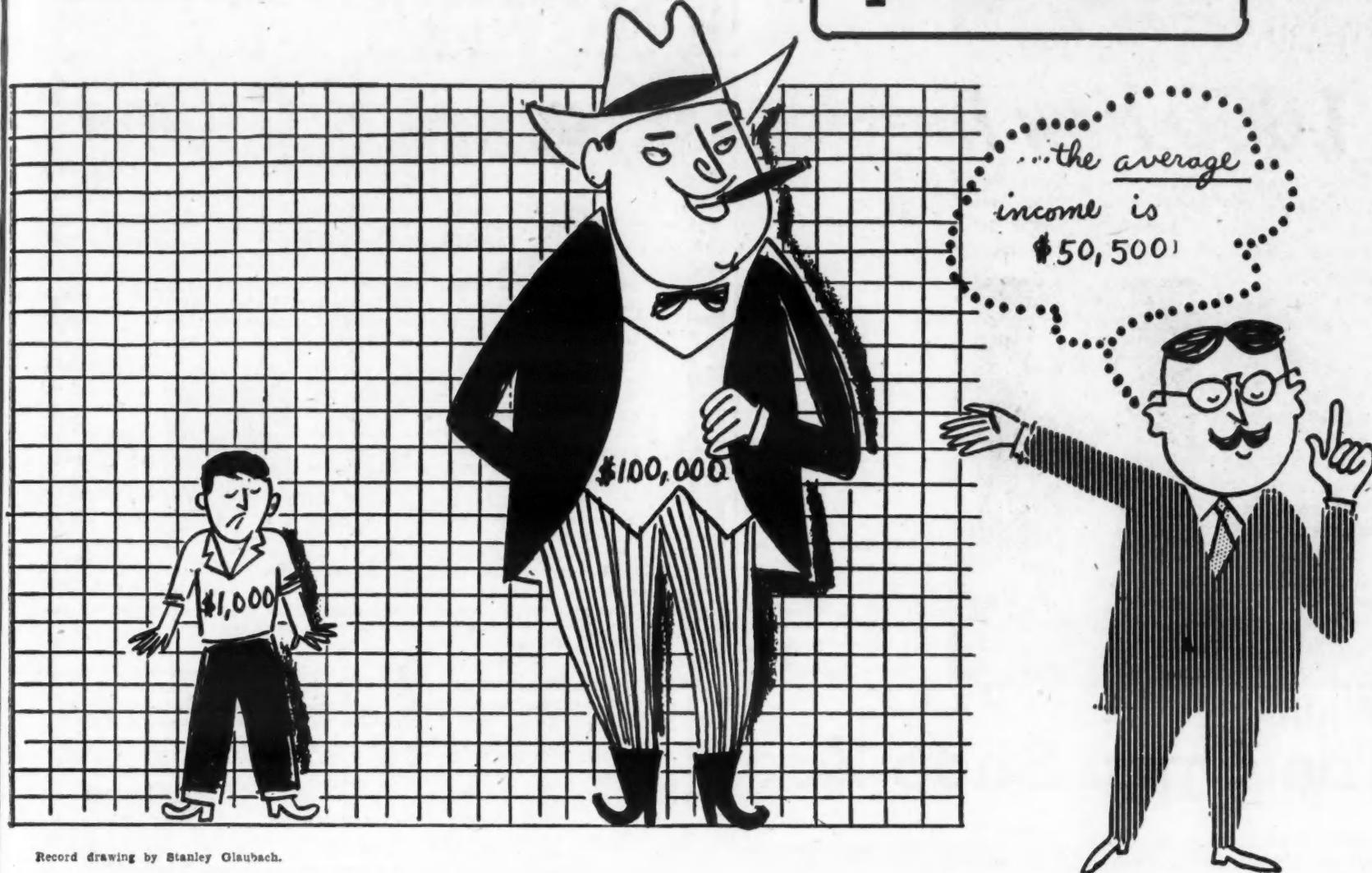
Meanwhile, Local 1002 is awaiting certification of the two newly organized Harry Vexler department stores, employing some 30 people, and an application is in for the workers of the four Agnew-Surpass shoe stores in this city.

Elsewhere, negotiations are under way between Local 499 and the Campus Restaurant for a contract renewal, as well as at the Murphy tobacco warehouse, whose employees are members of Local 800.

'414' Stewards Conference

TORONTO, Ont.—Representing 40 different shops throughout the province, 78 stewards of Local 414 met for an all-day conference last month to study local by-laws and the best ways of handling all types of grievances. The conference was led by Local 414 Education Dir. Don Collins, while Int'l Rep. Jack Piper chaired the sessions.

A guest speaker representing the Unemployment Insurance Commission of the Ontario Labor Department, found himself hard put to answer questions of a number of stewards during a question period after he spoke. The rank and file leaders, through their questions, pointed up weaknesses in the unemployment insurance law. The government spokesman came away with definite impressions of what the workers wanted. Among the questions the stewards raised were the lack of sick benefits for a worker while he is unemployed, and the long waiting period workers must sweat out before they begin collecting benefits.



Record drawing by Stanley Glaubach.

No. 1 Numbers Game: the 'Average Wage'

By MAX STEINBOCK

The American people have always been suckers for statistics. Only in this country could a book full of statistical tables—the Kinsey Report—become a bestseller. A large part of the advertising industry's annual budget of billions of dollars is devoted to convincing Americans that they are—or should become—part of a certain statistical group: "Four out of five have it (or use it or need it or want it)"; "51.37% of all doctors smoke Wheezos"; "87% of all TV viewers watch Joe Doakes."

We're specially gullible when it comes to averages. Most of us tend to forget that an average is only a mathematical formula; instead, we think of it as a kind of rule applying to nearly all the unit being averaged. Thus, when we read that the average American family's income is around \$5,500 a year, we get a picture of the vast majority receiving pretty close to that income, with a scattered few getting less, and a few getting more. Yet the truth may run something like this: one Texas oil millionaire may have an income of \$7,000,000 a year, while 1,000 Texas sharecroppers earn \$1,000 a year each. Put them together and "average" them, and you'll find that these 1,001 people have an average income of \$8,000 a year.

Though that example is somewhat exaggerated, it's not as far-fetched as it may seem. The fact is that recent widely-used statistics on wages are, for millions of workers, as much of a myth as the "\$8,000 average income" cited above.

These statistics—used widely by Republican spokesmen as a vote-getting device—show that factory wages have reached an all-time high average of \$81 a week, or more than \$2 an hour. For labor economists, these are highly deceptive figures. The average American worker enjoys no such income.

Last month the AFL-CIO Department of Research pointed out that some 10,250,000 families—one-fifth of the U. S. population—had incomes of less than \$2,000 a year. The average income of this group is \$1,313 a year—less than \$26 a week. Some of these families live in distressed areas where income is irregular. Others work in farm areas where they lack steady employment. Many work at low-paid unskilled and service jobs which are not covered by federal minimum wage laws. Still others cannot get employment at decent wages because of age, or race, or physical handicaps.

Cream Off the Top for Wealthy

At the other end of the economic scale are the very rich. They constitute far fewer people than the poor, but they get a far greater share of the national income. For example, the top 5 percent—some 2,600,000 wealthy families—had a total income of \$56 billion dollars, or 18.4 percent of the nation's family income. Compare this with the bottom 20 percent—more than 10,000,000 families—whose total income was \$13½ billion dollars, only 5.3 percent of national family income.

Even these figures don't tell the whole story. The rich are even richer than the figures indicate—and they're getting richer all the time.

More and more of the income of the wealthy comes in the form of "capital gains," so that it doesn't appear as family income—and incidentally, the tax on such capital gains is much lower than on ordinary income. The wealthy also make use of expense accounts to enjoy substantial tax-free advantages. Income-splitting with children, the decline in taxes on stock dividends, accelerated depreciation allowances, and many other gimmicks all contribute to boosting the real income of our wealthiest families.

Thus we see that the bottom 20 percent, and certainly the top 5 percent, are respectively far below and far above the national average. But what about the rest of the people? Are they in the magic circle of \$81 a week average wages?

A great many millions are not.

In the first place, the \$81 a week average applies only to factory production workers—the most highly organized in the country. Of the 52 million non-agricultural workers in the country, the factory production workers number only 13.2 million—which leaves about 39 million workers, many millions of whom are far from being in the \$81 class.

\$51 Average in Garment Trades

Even among production workers in manufacturing the \$81 weekly paycheck is far from universal. There are some 1,200,000 workers in the garment industry. As of Sept. 2 of this year, they averaged \$51.07 a week. But even this is high for some segments of the industry—workers in household apparel averaged only \$43.72 while those in men's and boys' furnishings and work clothes did little better with an average of \$44.64 a week.

Or take textile mill products. There are about a million workers in this vital industry. They average \$57.13, far from the \$81 a week of which the campaign orators speak. And here, too, there are segments of the industry that average less—seamless hosiery workers in the South averaging only \$45.41 and workers in yarn and thread \$57.67.

Again, there are large segments of the non-agriculture, non-manufacturing industries that average far below \$81 a week.

Take the retail trade with more than 8 million employees. It averages \$61.15 a week, but here again there are segments that average far below that. Thus, workers in general merchandise stores average only \$44.35 while department store workers average \$50.12.

There are about 350,000 laundry workers who average only \$42.43 a week. Cleaning and dyeing workers average \$51.28 and white collar workers in banks and trust companies average \$61.21.

It has been estimated that the American family of four needs something more than \$4,000 a year to live modestly but comfortably. The \$81 a week comes within shooting distance of this mark after taxes have been deducted, but only just about. For millions of workers who average less than the \$81, talk of "prosperity" based on those figures is meaningless.



FOREMAN: "Never mind this stuff about a union. Just put yourself in my hands and you'll never have to worry about a thing anymore."

The Open Shop Zoo



OFFICE MANAGER: "... and you new girls will do best to follow my example. I won't have any cattiness or backbiting in this office."



INDIVIDUALIST: "No union for me. You got to pay dues, go to meetings. Next thing you know they'll be leading you around with a ring through your nose."

MOVIES

in review

- MARCELINO — ★★★

A film of exquisite delicacy is now being shown at the Fine Arts Theater in New York, and in other cities. Produced in Spain and directed by Hungarian-born Ladislao Vajda, "Marcelino" is utter genius in art. This encompasses photography, direction, scope and acting. Adjectives are inadequate. It must be seen.

The story, told in retrospect by a Franciscan friar, is not unique, except in its handling. Marcelino was canonized in his fifth year, and was forever afterwards known as "Saint Marcelino, Pan Y Vino" (Saint Marcelino, Bread and Wine). Marcelino, played by Pablito Calvo, performs rare virtuosity, outranking all child performances ever produced, both at home and abroad.



This is the simple story of a miracle in a small Spanish village. A foundling child is reared by a strict order of Franciscan monks. The love and devotion of the monks toward the child is realistically presented. At no time does the film descend to maudlin trickery, as has been seen all too frequently in American films with religious themes.

The childish gracefulness of the boy—his walk, his manner, his special kind of beauty—perform a miracle in themselves. Therefore, when "The Man" to whom Marcelino brings the bread and wine extends his hand to the child, the true miracle is created by the response of the audience.

—VERA BERNARD

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS — ★★★

Intermission comes after about two hours in the Ten Commandments, latest of the double-feature-in-one epics to emerge from Hollywood, and at this point you feel rewarded, exhilarated, eager for more of what shaped up as one of the great movies of all time. But perhaps it was too much to expect of Cecil B. DeMille that the movie would continue at the same brilliant pace through the remaining hour and 45 minutes or so. The "ham" in DeMille takes over after intermission, and the entire production suffers.



Charlton Heston and his decision to take his place in slavery with the Israelites, later to lead them to freedom and to bring them the Ten Commandments.

Development of the story, based on the Holy Scriptures, is exciting, spectacular, and yet moving. "You are there" as one of the great chapters of biblical times unfolds. But then DeMille corns up the proceedings in scenes of the plagues visited upon the Egyptians, the crossing of the Red Sea, the reversion to sinfulness, etc. It is then that the viewer begins to look at his watch and wonder why they're making pictures that run so long. What had been the glorious story of a people's struggle for freedom is "Hollywoodized" and falls short in greatness.

—BERNARD STEPHENS

RECORD MOVIE RATING

★★★

Marcelino
Friendly Persuasion
Around The World in 80 Days
Giant
The Silent World
Lust For Life
War and Peace

★★★

The Ten Commandments
The Solid Gold Cadillac
The Best Things in Life are Free
Tea & Sympathy
Attack
The Bad Seed

★

The Girl He Left Behind
Storm Center
The Power & The Prize
The Sharkfighters
Phantom Horse



Biggest branch of R. H. Macy, at Roosevelt Field, L. I., is target of RWDSU's Local 1-S. Company is offering bitter resistance.

Progress Report on Union Drive Among Branch Stores

Organizing in the Suburbs of New York

Back in the 19th century, there was a land rush to one territory after another as the government opened up the Western lands to settlers and homesteaders. Today, there's a different kind of land rush; this time it's from the big cities to the suburbs, where former apartment-dwellers quickly settle down to their new lives as homeowners and property-owners.

Accompanying this migration to the outlying districts is a movement of department stores and big retail chains. Eager to tap the buying power of the suburbanites, the stores are concentrating in the giant shopping centers and finding that suburban locations are relatively more profitable than sites in traffic-choked big city centers.

As the stores go, so goes the union. New York locals of the RWDSU are moving right along with the firms with whom they hold contracts—and many are finding new firms to organize as well. In Long Island, for example, Local 721 has organized many independent men's wear stores in the process of signing up new units of the big haberdashery chains. The same is true of Locals 1102 and 1125, which have organized a number of dry goods and women's apparel shops. Local 1199 has had substantial success in organizing Long Island drug stores, and Local 338 has brought under contract many large supermarkets and food stores. Local 287 has been active in organizing Long Island shoe stores for a number of years.

Focus on Dept. Stores

The same pattern is being followed by many other RWDSU locals, in various retail trades in which they have jurisdiction. But the main focus of attention is centered on the department stores, for these giant retail operations are the hub of activity in the big shopping centers.

How is the RWDSU doing with the suburban department stores? Pretty well, on the whole. Here's the way the picture shapes up:

- At Gimbels, two big suburban branch stores are under contract with District 65, which also represents the employees of the firm's main Herald Square store. One Gimbels branch, in the Cross County Shopping Center, Westchester, was opened last fall; the other, in Green Acres Shopping Center, Valley Stream, L.I., opened last month. Each employs about 600—giving District 65 1,200 new members.

- At Macy's, all the firm's

branches opened prior to this year are under union contract with Local 1-S. These include the 8,000 employees of stores in Parkchester, Flatbush, Jamaica and White Plains as well as the main Herald Square store. But the biggest and newest branch, at Roosevelt Field, L.I. is not under contract, and Macy's is stubbornly resisting union moves to organize the store, which employs nearly 1,000.

- At Stern's, whose one branch store occupies the former Wanamaker premises in Great Neck, L.I., District 65 has also encountered stubborn resistance, despite the fact that the firm has a union contract covering 1,400 employees at its 42nd St. store. But a majority of the 150 Great Neck employees have joined the union, and '65' has

filed for an NLRB election.

- At Bloomingdale's, which is part of the giant Federated Stores chain, the firm's main store in New York City, with 3,500 employees, has been unionized since 1941. But it has been bitterly anti-union where its three branch stores in Fresh Meadows, New Rochelle and Stamford, Conn. are concerned. District 65 has been working for two years to organize these branches, but victory is not yet in sight.

- At Saks-34th, a new branch store in Massapequa, L.I. came under contract with District 65 last month, adding 50 members to the union's ranks.

- At Namm-Loeser, a new store in Bay Shore, L.I., replacing a much

smaller store in the same town, also opened last month, and is also under contract with District 65.

District 65 and Local 1-S have found that the best person to talk union to an unorganized department store employee is—an organized department store employee. Both unions depend heavily on the efforts of volunteer rank-and-file organizers, who visit their suburban counterparts in the stores and at home and bring the union message to them on a level where it is really absorbed.

With enough effort of this kind, backed up by the work of full-time organizers, it's only a matter of time before Macy's Roosevelt Field, the three Bloomingdale branches and Stern's Great Neck also join the RWDSU fold.



Gimbels newest branch store, in Valley Stream, L. I. is covered by contract with District 65 of RWDSU, adding 600 new members to union. Bloomingdale and Stern's are fighting organization of their suburban branches.



Checkups Guard Your Health

Regular Exams Catch Disorders in Early Stages

By DR. HAROLD AARON

For many years, health experts have been urging people of all ages to have a complete health check-up by a physician at least once a year. This check-up is sometimes called a "preventive health examination." This is a bad term since the examination doesn't prevent anything. But it does accomplish something equally important. It detects disease or disturbed function at an early stage before serious changes have occurred. Disorders of the body detected before disturbing symptoms or changes have appeared are much easier to treat or to cure.

Early treatment is "preventive medicine" in the sense that it prevents diseases from becoming too advanced, too chronic or even incurable. Thus, if diabetes is detected early, simple weight reduction or diet planning may make it unnecessary to use insulin. If tuberculosis is detected early, it can be cured in weeks or months instead of the years it so often takes when the disease is allowed to become advanced.

Not Enough Exams Given

Although doctors believe in the value of the periodic health check-up, not many have the time (or the inclination) to promote such examinations regularly because so much effort must go into treatment or relief of existing sickness. The systematic promotion of the periodic health check-up is, unfortunately, not yet a feature of American medical practice today. One important reason for this is that "health examinations" of presumably well persons is not encouraged or paid for by Blue Shield and other types of voluntary health insurance programs and contracts. On the other hand, the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York (HIP), and similar community insurance programs providing comprehensive care without limitations as to disease detection or diagnosis, do encourage periodic health check-ups. But many HIP groups are reluctant to provide such services unless those who belong to HIP maintain a steady pressure for these services.

Because cancer is one of the most important causes of sickness and death—because it is more

common in adults, and because cancer can start without any warning symptoms—the periodic health check-up is particularly important for adults over 35 years of age, who are presumably in good health.

A complete health check-up by a physician should include the following items:

1—A physical examination from head to toe, including examination of the rectum and colon with proctoscope or sigmoidoscope; and breast and pelvic examinations in women.

2—A chest X-ray.

3—Laboratory tests, including a blood serology test for syphilis (this is often omitted if blood has been donated to the Red Cross in the preceding few months and has been accepted); hemoglobin, with or without a count of the white blood cells; urine examination and a "Pap" or "cytologic smear" of the vaginal or uterine secretions in women over 35.

This is the type of examination given in so called "Cancer Detection Clinics." Residents of New York City can obtain such an examination free at one of the 3 Cancer Detection Clinics located in New York City's Board of Health Stations. In other cities or communities, health departments are beginning to experiment with such programs.

In addition to these free services for cancer detection, there are also available in New York and other communities semi-private or private cancer detection centers, usually in association with a medical school or community hospital and often supported by funds from the American Cancer Society. The fees in these clinics average around \$20. There is usually a long waiting list for admission to either free or fee-for-service cancer detection clinics.

It must be emphasized that nobody should wait weeks for an examination at a cancer detection clinic if they are sick, or if they are suffering from one of the following danger symptoms:

1—Any lump, especially in the breasts.

2—Unusual bleeding or discharge from nipples, vagina, or rectum.

3—Spitting of blood.

4—Persistent indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.

5—Any lasting change in normal bowel habits.

6—Passage of black stools—indicating bleeding somewhere in the gastro-intestinal tract.

7—Unexplained weight loss.

8—Changes in color or size of a mole or "wart"—especially those on hands, feet, genitals or shaved areas.

9—Any sore that does not heal promptly.

10—Persistent hoarseness or cough.

Anyone with any of these symptoms should consult his physician immediately.

Medical Costs Rise Sharply

Since January 1955, the overall consumer's price index has increased by almost 3 percent. But the cost of medical care, which is just one component part of that index, has, over this same period, increased by more than 12 percent. In the last year alone, medical costs have risen 4.5 percent, and the rate of increase has accelerated.

While all types of medical services have gone up in price, hospitals have been the chief offenders. Since 1953, hospital ward rates in three major cities have gone up 30 percent, from an average rate of \$12.78 per day to an average of \$16.59 per day.

The total amount that has been added to the people's medical bills as a result of medical cost increases during the past three and a half years has been estimated at about \$2.5 billion. The Administration's only response to the medical cost crisis was the timid and misdirected proposal to pay out \$25 million to establish a "reinsurance" fund to guarantee the profits of commercial insurance companies.



Skis are an important item in Norway's retail stores. Here a member of NHKF demonstrates ski's flexibility to a customer.

Peace and Progress Mark Norway's Labor Relations

The Scandinavian nations—Sweden, Norway and Denmark—have long served as a model of reason, orderliness and peaceful relationships within a democratic framework. Nowhere are these traits more evident than in the field of labor relations. In many other democratic nations, bitterness and even violence mark dealings between employers and unions, but in the Scandinavian countries—even if all is not sweetness and light—labor relations are generally quieter and more peaceful than in our own country.

Take Norway, for example. Many of the issues that might lead to strikes in the U. S. are not even subject to collective bargaining in Norway, where they are dealt with instead by means of legislation. The RWDSU's opposite number, the Norwegian Commercial and Clerical Employees Union (whose initials NHKF stand for Norges Handels-og Kontorfunksjonaeres Forbund) doesn't negotiate on working hours. These, as well as retail stores' closing hours, are fixed by law. Stores close at 5 or 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 or 7 p.m. on Friday, and 3 or 4 p.m. on Saturday. Employees work a maximum of 48 hours a week, with most working 46 hours.

NHKF includes bank employees and other white collar workers in addition to retail and wholesale employees. It has 33,000 members—about one-third of the 100,000 workers employed in these industries—and finds organizing white-collar workers a difficult task.

Most members of NHKF are covered by national agreement between their union and employer associations. Among the latter is a negotiating committee representing the co-ops where many NHKF members are employed. The national contracts provide for five wage zones, ranging from Oslo, the capital, in Zone 1, down to the rural districts which are Zone 5. Wages vary slightly in these zones, as does the cost of living.

It's difficult to translate Norwegian earnings into dollars, since the cost of food must be taken into account. Wages are fixed according to a scale ranging from the minimum starting rate up to 10 years of seniority, with both the employee's age and his commercial education counting toward his seniority when he begins employment. Women members' wages average about 87% of male workers' pay, and the union is seeking to close the gap completely as time goes on.

As an example of retail wages in Norway, NHKF contracts call for a minimum rate in Oslo of 835 kroner per month, or about \$120. Wages for those with more seniority range from 900 to 1,000 kroner. Generally speaking, though retail wages are not as high as the NHKF thinks they should be, they compare favorably with other industries—unlike the U.S., where retail and office workers' wages tend to lag behind those of industrial workers.

Shop Steward Plays a Key Role

An important link in the union's chain of command is the shop steward. All NHKF contracts spell out in detail the rights and duties of stewards. Among other functions, the steward is responsible for enforcing contract conditions, as well as for negotiating with management on grievances.

Norway is tied by strong bonds to the other Scandinavian nations. This is reflected in the relationship among retail unions. Since 1918, there has been in existence the Scandinavian Co-operation Committee, on which are represented the retail unions of Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

Like the other Scandinavian countries, Norway has an advanced system of health and welfare benefits, which includes insurance against sickness, accident and unemployment, and also provides family allowances and old-age pensions. The dominant political party of the country is the Social-Democratic Labor party, to which NHKF, like other Norwegian unions, is affiliated.

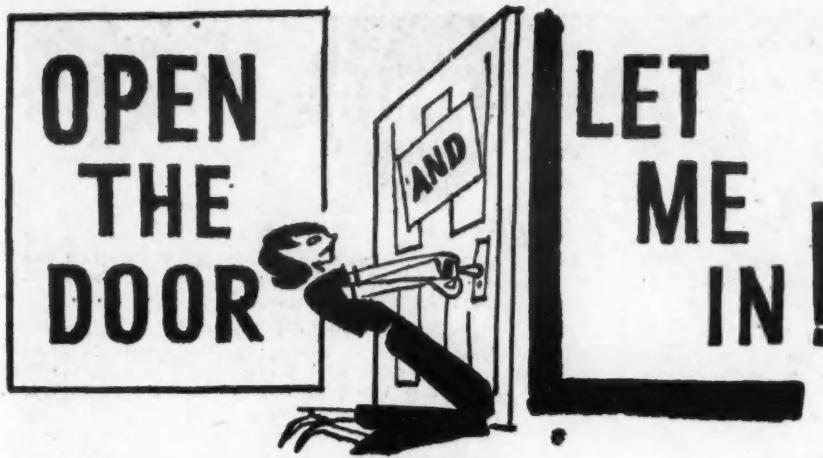
The NHKF's 33,000 members represent almost exactly one percent of Norway's population of 3,400,000. An idea of the extent to which it has organized its jurisdiction can be gained by transposing these figures into their American equivalent: the RWDSU, if it succeeded in organizing one percent of the U. S. population, would have 1,650,000 members, making it the biggest union in the world!



Hand-carved knick-knacks, ornaments and wooden bowls are displayed by member of Norway's retail union in Oslo store.



Sparkling clean, modern store sells dairy products in Oslo, Norway capital. Store is staffed by NHKF members.



By JANE GOODSELL

It won't be long until the frost is on the pumpkin and I, for one, can hardly wait. I am ready, eager, to take the winter woolens out of mothballs, to assemble galoshes and mittens, and to refill the vitamin prescriptions.

Since this attitude sounds subversive and downright un-American, perhaps I had better explain.

I am the shaken victim of an overdose of Casual and Relaxed Outdoor Living. I have developed a case of patio palsy so acute that the mere thought of a shish kebab makes me nervous.

I want to get back into the house. I want to live in the living room and dine in the dining room. I want to sit in big overstuffed chairs with tables beside them and lamps to read by.

I want to eat some good old-fashioned unbarbecued food that has been cooked in pots over electric elements. I want to eat off breakable dishes that are supported by a table instead of my knees. I want a glass of water at my place, and salt and pepper shakers within easy reach.

I am willing to spend my days zipping small children in and out of snowsuits if I don't have to sit in any more patio furniture. I have heaved myself in and out of campaign chairs, butterfly chairs, contour chairs, African chairs and patio lounges. By exercising caution I have survived the summer without displacing my sacroiliac. I have also developed a new respect for the straight ladder-backed chair.

I have eaten all varieties of meat, fish and poultry, broiled over charcoal and basted with wildly imaginative sauces by red-faced, glassy-eyed men in chefs' caps and denim aprons. On this subject I will simply say that (1) a push-button electric range is a wonderful invention; (2) salt, pepper and butter are excellent seasonings for a good steak; (3) some men who wear chefs' caps are not chefs.

I have costumed myself in patio outfits, cleverly designed to expose the maximum amount of epidermis to flying bugs, wasps and mosquitos. These tiny creatures, thriving happily on DDT and other tempting chemicals, have achieved their Golden Age in the area of outdoor living.

Perhaps by next summer things will look different to me. After a winter of virus infections and icy pavements I may long to lounge on the patio. My mouth may even water for a shish kebab.

But right now, enough is enough. Open the doors and LEMME INSIDE!



Record Drawings by Marjorie Glaubach

Your Queries Answered On Packaged Meats, Electric Ranges, Dryers

By SIDNEY MARCOLIUS
Consumer Expert for The Record

PACKAGED MEATS: "I disagree with your criticism of self-service meats. I manage one of the finest self-service markets in the Tri-Cities area. Our problem is trying to convert the older folks to self-service meats. The self-service operation is less costly and that saving is passed on to the consumer. I realize that retail prices are high due to our inflationary economy. But supermarkets' dollars are made on volume, not on your purchase or mine. At the time I read your article we were having a weekend sale on pork loins at 29 cents a pound. We paid 30½ cents. The same weekend we sold hams for 39 cents and they were 37½ cents wholesale. The buyer of self-service meats has these advantages: cleaner, more sanitary meat; fresher meat, due to greater turnover; more modern handling and closer trim. The self-service customer can personally pick his own meat and not be at the mercy of a quick-fingered counter man. The customer also has the advantage of absolute refrigeration throughout the cutting and wrapping operation."

—G. W. Moline, Ill.

Answer: Our intent was not to criticize self-service marketing, which is an economy, but to point out that the same meats under packers' brand names cost more. Now several packers, notably Swift, are putting on big campaigns via television and other advertising media for their pre-cut frozen meats. All trade observers have noted that these are more expensive than ordinary self-service meats. For example, several packers are offering eight-ounce packages of frozen chopped meat at 39 to 49 cents. This makes the price-per-pound 78 to 98 cents. In comparison, regular ground beef sells at 35 to 49 cents a pound in the same area, and lean ground beef is 57 to 69 cents.

Theoretically pre-cut frozen meats have possibilities of economy since the packer can recover fat, waste and bone; cut and package on a production line; save the expense of shipping the whole carcass, etc. But the fact is, brand-name package meats are used as a device to get a higher margin of profit, with costly advertising used to promote the brand name. Judging from the price of brand-packaged meats, even without pay-as-you-go television the consumer pays a heavy price for the TV shows promoting these products.

G. W.'s inside tips also show the value of looking for those week-end specials and building the family's menus around them. However, his argument that self-service meats are more closely trimmed does not always stand up in the experience of many consumers. This seems to depend on the individual market's policy. Our advice still is to examine self-service meats as closely as you can to see how much waste is trimmed off.

RECORD CLUBS: "You point out that installment contracts that include confession notes can lead to confession judgments without opportunity for defense by debtors. I have evidence that a 'Music Club' pretends that a coupon and one dollar sent for their sample record is subscribed membership, and that a set of records is contracted for. Your refusal to accept the unorderly merchandise is considered to be in default of the 'contract.' My account was alleged to be \$38 although I had returned the sample record and had prevented the threatened deliveries."

—Mrs. S. C., San Leandro, Calif.

Answer: It may not be the same company, but one firm which has widely advertised a record-of-the-month club has been charged by the Federal Trade Commission with refusing to cancel membership despite written notices. The subscription contract states that persons who become members may cancel at any time. But according to the complaint, the company continues to mail additional records. If the "members" don't pay, the company places their accounts with attorneys and collection agencies. The company offers an introductory record for ten cents. A hearing was recently held, but the FTC decision on the complaint has not yet been handed down at this writing.

ELECTRONIC RANGES: "Now that the new electronic ranges are available on the market for microwave home cooking, could you give us some information on them?"

—J. K. M., San Diego, Calif.

Answer: Electronic ranges are still very costly (some are more than \$1,000). They cook food very fast by cooking from the inside out. Observers report vegetables, roasts and cakes can be cooked in just a few minutes. But until increased production brings the price down, their chief immediate use is expected to be in restaurants and institutions where quantities of food must be prepared quickly.

CLOTHES DRYERS: I would like information about clothes dryers which require no venting for getting rid of moisture. How many gallons of water are evaporated from nine pounds of clothes? Would you recommend buying a ventless clothes dryer?"

—Mrs. J. W., Buffalo, N. Y.

Answer: Some home economists seem to feel venting is more necessary with a gas dryer than an electric one, because of fumes. But even here venting may not be necessary if the dryer is used in the basement or a fairly large room, as the gas burner in a dryer has only about the same heat output as a gas oven broiler. The trend of manufacturers now is to equip dryers with cold-water spray which condenses the vapor, and runs it and lint into a wash tub, stand pipe or floor drain. Dryers so equipped cost more, and again, this device may not be necessary unless the machine is placed in a small room where the vapor may become uncomfortable, or if you live in a humid climate where additional humidity is undesirable, or have a large family with the dryer in comparatively continuous use.

In a hot-air heated home, the additional humidity from an unvented dryer may even be an asset in the winter. A dryer evaporates about a gallon of water from a load of eight or nine pounds of laundry.

lighter side of the

record

'Thick-Headed' Bookkeeper?

HARRISBURG, Pa.—The Pennsylvania State Unemployment Compensation Board of Review ruled that a girl worker can collect unemployment compensation if she walks out because her boss ridicules her in order to appease a customer. The decision came in the case of a broadcasting company bookkeeper in Butler, Pa., whose boss—talking to a customer—called her a "thick-headed bookkeeper." The gal rose in righteous indignation. It was only to appease a client, the boss explained. Nevertheless, the gal quit and the state board upheld her dignity. Workers do not have to be "subjected to ridicule" or become "scapegoats" in order to hold their jobs, the state board declared.

Progressive Hoboes

BRITT, Iowa.—The Hoboes of America held their annual convention and, with nearly 20,000 attending, roared unanimous approval of a labor platform that could be a sheer nightmare for Republican and Democratic politicos. Among other demands the platform modestly called for: (1) A maximum of four hours work a day; (2) a maximum of four days work a week; (3) a minimum of three months vacation each

year with pay; (4) a federal minimum wage of \$1.50 an hour; (5) an automatic \$100-a-month for all persons over 60.

A proposal that hoboes seek affiliation with the merged labor movement never even got out of committee on the grounds that "the AFL-CIO is too conservative on the question of leisure."

'Poor-Risk' Hubby

The neighbors were coming home from the funeral. "I'm sorry for poor Winnie," said one. "It's tough to be left a widow with three children." "It is," replied another. "But what could she expect? She knew he was a pedestrian when she married him."

Scabs and Termites

ACAPULCO, Mexico—Fourteen scab carpenters brought in to break a strike at luxury homes at this summer resort never knew why they were fired in such a hurry and chased out of town. Three times the scabs were given half-days off with pay so that the half-finished mansions could be fumigated. Then the contractors brought in a scientist to make an

emergency study of the termites which were raising havoc with the rare Central American woods with which the interiors were being panelled.

The scientist studied the bugs and announced a quick conclusion: the termites were alien to that section of Mexico and came, in fact, from near the Texas border. It was absolutely impossible that this species of termite should migrate south by itself; it had to be imported. The contractors also drew a quick conclusion: the scabs had been imported and the termites were also imported. Within three hours all 14 scabs were fired and given bus tickets out of town. The next day union carpenters were called back to work.

Firehouse Fraternity

BALTIMORE, Md.—Leaders of four unions, including the AFL-CIO Firefighters, demanded that firemen no longer be required to do painting or repair work around the firehouse. Declared Pres. Raymond C. Fogarty, of the AFL-CIO Firefighters, "We're paid to fight fires; not to paint buildings nor to take jobs away from union painters." Union painters, in gratitude, said from now on they'd recommend non-inflammable and fire-resistant paints.

LOCAL LAUGHS

by Miller



BRITAIN'S GIFT TO U. S. Decide for yourself who got the better of the swap when Diana Dors came here as Marilyn Monroe made eastward crossing



Dept. Store Leaders On Midwest Survey

A survey of organizing prospects, with emphasis on department stores, took Exec. Vice-Pres. Sam Kovenetsky and Vice-Pres. Bill Michelson on a tour of Midwestern cities last month. The two veteran department store leaders came back enthusiastic about the possibilities in Ohio, where they spent most of their time.

Accompanying the two New Yorkers was Regional Director Gerald Hughes, who spent a full week with them as they visited Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Akron and other important centers. All three reported to the RWDSU Executive Board meeting, held Oct. 29-31, that AFL-CIO leaders in the cities they visited would welcome a department store organizing drive and would help in every way they could.

An additional purpose of the trip was to prepare support in the Midwest for a struggle which District 65 expects it will have to wage in 1958 with the giant Federated and Allied department store chains in New York. Michelson, who is organization director of '65', pointed out that the union's contracts with Bloomingdale's and Stern's expire in that year, and a tough fight is anticipated on union demands.

Kovenetsky, whose post with the RWDSU puts him in charge of department store organizing, is also president of Macy Employees Local 1-S. Like Federated and Allied, the Macy chain includes Midwest stores. These too were surveyed for organizing potential. Kovenetsky reported that the officers and members of several unions, notably the Steelworkers and Rubber Workers, could be counted on to help RWDSUers in organizing retail and department stores in their communities.



TWIN PURPOSES for trip to Midwest by RWDSU Exec. Vice-Pres. Sam Kovenetsky (2nd from l.) and Vice Pres. Bill Michelson (r.) were survey of organizing potential for RWDSU, and lining up of support for District 65 at Allied and Federated Dept. Stores in fight looming at Bloomingdales and Sterns, New York units of the two big store chains. Above, the two RWDSU leaders meet in Cincinnati, with George Porcaro, secretary of RCIA District Council, and Steve Chevalier, secretary of CIO Council.

in this issue . . .

Suburban Stores

As big N. Y. department stores move to suburbs, RWDSU locals follow to organize them.

—See Page 11

How Regular Checkups Help Protect Your Health

—See Page 12

Retail Unions Abroad: Norway's NHKF

—See Page 13

Open Shop Zoo

—See Page 10

No. 1 Numbers Game: 'Average' Wage

—See Page 9